



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - February 5, 2003

- ***In the West***, snow showers continue across the ***northern Rockies***, but dry weather prevails elsewhere. Recent precipitation in the ***Northwest*** aided winter grains and improved mountain snow packs, but other areas from the ***Rockies westward***, excluding ***northern California***, remain extremely dry.
- ***On the Plains***, light precipitation is re-establishing a shallow snow cover across ***northern portions of the region***, following recent record warmth. Cloudiness is overspreading the ***southern Plains*** in advance of a developing storm system.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold, mostly dry weather prevails in the wake of recent, beneficial precipitation. Snow showers are confined to areas downwind of the ***Great Lakes***.
- ***In the South***, topsoils are dry due to near-record to record January dryness, although sub-soil moisture remains adequate due to wet weather late last year. In recent days, irrigation has been required for winter grains as far north as ***southern Georgia***.

Outlook: A developing storm over the southern Rockies will bring widespread precipitation to the ***Gulf Coast States, southern Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley***, while the passage of a cold front will maintain below-normal temperatures and the threat of light snow across the ***Midwest***. Precipitation will spread eastward by week's end, with snow likely in the ***Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States*** and rain across the ***Southeast***. Meanwhile, occasional light snow will linger across the ***northern and central Rockies***, but dry weather will prevail along the ***Pacific Coast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 10-14 calls for below-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and New England***, while wetter-than-normal weather is forecast across the ***nation's southern tier from southern California to the southern Atlantic States***. Below-normal temperatures are expected in a broad area from the ***Southwest to the Northeast***, while warmer-than-normal weather is forecast in ***Florida*** and the ***Pacific Northwest***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)